

Newsletter EU Access



This is the first issue of the Newsletter of the EU Access programme, a co-operation programme on sustainable agricultural supply chains in pre- and post-European Union accession countries. This programme started at the request of the Ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality of the Netherlands and is now running in co-operation with partners from Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic and Cyprus.

The quarterly Newsletter intends to inform you about new developments around the various projects of the programme. A policy brief will also be published; this will contain more information around a specific theme.

For more information about programme, projects, newsletter or policy brief please contact us (arij.everaarts@wur.nl; phone +31 320 29 11 11).

Organics Project

The Pro-Bio organisation held a seminar in the Czech Republic from 28 June - 2 July 2004. Pro-Bio is an interest group for organic farming. Since 1999 the group has been organising an annual seminar on organic agriculture. This seminar is a platform for knowledge exchange and contacts between participants from all central European countries and from some West European countries. The Organics Project participated in the conference through a lecture presented by Mr. W Sukkel from PPO in the Netherlands and Mr. B. Ball from the Scottish Agricultural College (SAC) and through a workshop on organic vegetable production in Central Europe. There were around 200 participants at the seminar while 30 people attended the workshop.

The Organics Project is in 2004 also involved in organising a seminar from 13 - 15 October in the Slovak Republic. This seminar is primarily aimed on the transfer of information on organic farming to farmers. There will also be an inventory and discussion on the knowledge transfer system in organic farming in the Slovak Republic and the seminar will function as a case study on knowledge transfer methodology for the participants in the Organics Project.

Participants in the project come from the Slovak Republic, Poland, Cyprus and the Czech Republic. The programme board recently approved participation of Agrolink, an organisation dealing with lobbying, advice, training and research in Bulgaria.

A bilateral meeting with the Polish project members was held from 21-24 September to discuss and plan activities in Poland in 2005.

For more information please contact Wijnand Sukkel (wijnand.sukkel@wur.nl; phone +31 320 29 11 11) or Herman de Putter, herman.deputter@wur.nl; phone +31 320 29 11 11).

TRANSFER

Strengthening agricultural knowledge and information systems for smaller farmers International Workshop in Krakow

Smaller farmers in pre- and post-accession countries need information and knowledge to adjust their farm practices to the European market and to agricultural policies and regulations. The TRANSFER project aims at improving extension effectiveness in participating countries.

In 2004, the project is establishing its network for collaboration, exploring Slovak experiences with regard to agricultural extension. We are happy to share these findings and your experiences in a workshop to be held from 8-10 November 2004 in Krakow, Poland. Participants are policy makers in charge of agricultural extension and research, public and private extension services, producers' organisations and farmers. We offer the opportunity to explore past, current and desired extension systems in your country, to learn from innovative extension policies and to formulate recommendations for improvement. At the same time we intend to identify innovative pilot projects for collaboration in 2005 and 2006. TRANSFER is executed by the International Agricultural Centre (IAC) in collaboration with Applied Plant Research and partners in participating countries.

If you wish to become part of the network, attend the workshop, or start an innovative project in 2005 with TRANSFER, please contact Dieuwke Klaver (dieuwke.klaver@wur.nl; phone +31 317 49 52 40).



Workshop Qualiman, May 12-14, 2004



In the Qualiman (quality management) project colleagues from Hungary, Slovakia, The Netherlands and Poland work together on improved product quality and improved food safety.

The first activity of the Qualiman project was a workshop in May 2004 about Food safety and Quality Management, organised by Applied Plant Research. Objective of the workshop was for participants in the project to meet each other, to learn more about food safety (FS) and quality production (QP), and to work on the first steps of the project.

During the workshop presentations were given about HACCP, quality production, food safety assurance, food standards in the EU, and Dutch legislation. The theory was also shown in practice: the participants visited different farms and companies to see how quality assurance and food safety is dealt with in the Netherlands. An analysis of the domain and relevant stakeholders in the fields of food safety and quality assurance was worked out for each country. During the second half of 2004, all four participating countries will perform a quick-scan to identify the problems on QP and FS in the market chain of onions and apples.

A 1-2 day project meeting is planned in January 2005, before the programme meeting in Sofia. Results will be put together into a publication and a plan for activities for the coming year will be formulated. Project participants will be able to meet participants from other EU Access projects to build their network.

For more detailed information please contact Marco de Wolf (marco.dewolf@wur.nl; phone +31 320 29 11 11) or Herman Schoorlemmer (herman.schoorlemmer@wur.nl; phone +31 320 29 11 11).

Producers' Organisations (POs)

This project (involving Poland, Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, Hungary) covers three important subjects: EU legislation around POs, quality, and organisation development. A workshop on 'Quality' will be organised in December in Poland, including an introduction about the EU standards for product quality, some practical issues in which participants compare their own situation with these standards. For example: what is the grading result of the own apple production according to EU standards, which differences exist between participants and between years? Are there control possibilities and driving forces? The second part of the workshop will consist of an overview of the theory and background of different quality management systems, including subjects like: which quality systems exist and what are differences and similarities? The workshop concludes with some exercises about common aspects: hygiene, traceability and registration.

For more information, please contact Marianne Groot (marianne.groot@wur.nl; phone +31 488 47 37 12).

Agenda

2004

December 1: Workshop Pilot Quality (PO's), Poland (contact: Marianne Groot)
December 16-17: Workshop Organisation Development (PO's), Czech Republic (contact: Frank Joosten, frank.joosten@wur.nl; phone +31 317 49 53 48)

2005

March: Programme meeting (contact: Arij Everaarts, arij.everaarts@wur.nl; phone +31 320 29 11 11)



Addresses

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Three institutes of Wageningen University and Research Centre are involved in this programme: Applied Plant Research (PPO), International Agricultural Centre (IAC) and Agricultural Economics Research Institute (LEI)

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**agriculture, nature
and food quality**